GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1172
ANSWERED ON:01.08.2005
PLUNDERING OF WESTERN GHATS
Angadi Shri Suresh Chanabasappa

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government is aware that the forests of Western Ghats are being plundered due to the presence of medicinal plant "Mappia Foetida" commonly known as 'Narakya' or 'Amruta' which is used in drugs to treat cancer;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the powder obtained from this plant is being exported to countries like Japan, Germany, Spain and China illegally;

(d) if so, the details alongwith seizures made in this regard; and

(e) the action proposed to be taken by the Union Government to prevent such activities?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

(a) Instances of plundering the forest of Western Ghats due to the presence of medicinal plants "Mappia Foetida" have not been reported in Western Ghats' areas in the States of Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra. However, some instances of illicit cutting of 'Mappia Foetida' in forest areas and also of felling without permission in private lands have been reported in the State of Maharashtra.

(b) In the State of Maharashtra, 12795 trees of Mappia Foetida were illicitly cut in Kolhapur Wildlife division, whereas in Kolhpur Circle, 11 cases of illicit cutting of 376 trees have been noticed in last three years. In Pune forest division, six instances of illicit cutting were noticed and in Bhor forest division, two cases of illicit transport of chips from private lands were noticed. The following seizures of material obtained from Narkya wood have been made in the State of Maharashtra, in this context:

Division	Product	Quantity
Kolhapur Wildlife Division	Chips	4715 bags
	Extract	710 kg.
	powder	22 kg.
Kolhapur Forest circle.	Chips	143 bags
Pune Forest Division	Chips	3010 kg.
Bhor Forest Division	Chips	780 kg.

(c) 'Mappia Foetida' is not in the Negative list of Export-Import policy. No such report/information regarding the export of the powder of 'Mappia Foetida' has been received from Director General of Foreign Trade and the Western Ghat States.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The following actions have been taken:

(i) Plugging and blocking the multiple exit /entry points.

(ii) Undertaking widespread awakening/education programmes in the villages.

(iii) Intensive patrolling.

(iv) Seizure of vehicles and illegal materials & arrests have been made. Such stringent actions are being taken along with the strict enforcement of State Acts/Rules and Indian Forest Act, 1927.